

Our Town Trees
Monthly meeting
April 23, 2018

Present: C. Geiser, L. Davis, B. Critchley, B. Knight, B. Sutcliffe, H. Birdsall

Meeting was called to order at 5:35 PM.

Secretary report: Beth Critchley reported that several sections of the previous minutes had mistakenly been omitted from the minutes. B. Knight moved and B. Sutcliffe seconded, to amend the minutes and submit at the May meeting for approval.

Introduction of guests: C. Geiser welcomed three guests in attendance at the meeting: Kim Syrel who is the new Clinton Tree Warden, Tim Guerra from the Board of Selectmen and Dave Smith.

Old Business

A. Arbor Day Celebration: The celebration will be April 27 at 1:30 PM. The White Oak to be planted has been purchased and is ready to be planted. There was discussion as to who would be responsible for the actual digging of the hole. C. Geiser will ask Gary Bousquet to deliver the tree on Thursday. K. Syrel said that she would work with Peter Neff to coordinate the digging of the hole on Friday morning. C. Geiser went over the agenda for the event. K. Syrel will discuss tree planting methods, Carol will discuss the White Oak, the First Selectman will read the Proclamation and B. Knight will present information about Birdsey Northrup. B. Knight reported that she had been requested by the First Selectman to modify the Proclamation. B. Knight moved and C. Geiser seconded to approve the Proclamation as presented. Motion was approved. Publicity for the event will be submitted to The Harbor News, Facebook and local TV. There will be a handout for the school groups about the White Oak, and a tree walk around Town Hall, both of which are being coordinated by Carol. Arbor Day signs will be distributed at the end of the meeting.

Christine Goupil, First Selectman, joined the meeting at 6:15 PM.

B. Tree Inventory of grant trees: C. Geiser will continue to work on updating the list. In order to familiarize the new Tree Warden, there was discussion about where most of the trees have been planted and a brief update about the status of most of them. The Dogwood to be replaced at the Firehouse should be planted this spring.

C. Tags for Trees: B. Critchley presented information on the types of tags available. There was discussion about what the goals of the tree identification will be. One goal of tagging the trees is to protect the trees from accidental damage by work crews. B. Knight suggested that we also consider educating the town crews about what to look for, and proper methods of mulching and trimming. Another goal of tagging trees is to identify trees by their type so as to be useful in further community education. One of the types of tags B. Critchley presented has the ability to include a QR code, linking the information to a smartphone or other device. This led to discussion of how it could be used in the walking tour we are currently working on around Town Hall and immediate surroundings. Christine Goupil mentioned that the Historic District Commission is looking at the possibility of developing a Walking Tour around the downtown area, and perhaps we can work together. B. Critchley will follow up

on this. There was discussion about whether the tags should be hanging, mounted or staked. Due to the possibility of damage or vandalism, it was decided to eliminate the staked variety. B. Critchley will look into both types of tags, with pricing for general Tree Committee identification, as well as pricing for tree specific identification. B. Knight suggested contacting DPW to determine if there is a preferred vendor for items such as this. There was discussion about the possibility about involving the schools, perhaps to tie in with the curriculum. The Walking tour could link to a scavenger hunt, or something similar.

D. Route 1 planting scheme – tabled until next month when Jane is present.

E. Tree Walk on Elliott Preserve: The May meeting will begin with a brief walk through the preserve to determine if there are any significant trees to include in the Town Hall Tree Walk map.

F. Tree City Information: C. Geiser needs more time to work on project.

G. Fundraiser: The committee will again have a table at the Congregational Summer Fair to be held on August 10 and 11.

New Business

Introduction of Tree Warden: Kim Syrel is the newly appointed Tree Warden. She specializes in entomology and pathology as it relates to trees and shrubs. She has already begun working with Peter Neff in helping to identify trees that are in need of removal or pruning. There was some discussion about the local gypsy moth infestation and the possibility of the spotted lanternfly being found in CT in the near future.

New places to plant: L. Davis reported that she spoke with a representative at the Antique Center about a tree planting and was turned down. There was discussion about the VFW and approaching them again. One of our goals is to beautify the west side of town. C. Geiser asked the Tree Warden to provide a list of some smaller trees we can use in tight places. There was also concern expressed about the timing of these plantings, as it should not be done in the midst of summer. The Tree Warden has a 100 gallon tank she can haul around in her truck if necessary.

The meeting was adjourned at 7 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Critchley, secretary